

To the
HIGHEST AND HONOURABLEST
COURT OF JUSTICE
IN THIS
NATION

513

Now Assembled in Westminster for the Tryal of *Charles Steward*,
Late King of ENGLAND.

The humble Petition and Engagement of the Souldiers under the Command of his Excellency, Thomas Lord Fairfax, now quartering in the City of London; with other well-affected persons in this Nation.

Shewing,

According to our Duties which we owe unto this bleeding Nation, who hath for many yeers bin oppressed with the Norman yoke of bondage; But God having now opened a door of hope, and that deliverance draws neer, and now coming to the birth: We therefore beseech you most noble Senators, to use your uttermost endeavours in carrying on this Noble Designe of Justice: For we are confident that both you and we shall perish, if Justice be not speedily and impartially executed: For the Wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all unrighteousness of men; Then most sure against those who have betrayed their trust, and spilt much innocent bloud; whose bloud now cries in the ears of the Lord of Hosts, for vengeance against our grand Tyrant, *Charles Steward*, and all such inhumane Murderers, who have destroyed their fellow creatures without cause. And seeing God hath bin pleased to own us in so many Designs in the open Field, subduing our enemies under our feet; We shall now delight to appear for Righteousnes, in having our conquered Enemy called to an account, knowing that righteousness is that foundation which God hath laid for our everlasting peace. Therefore put you on righteousness as a robe, and judgement as a crown, walking in the light and strength of God, fulfilling his will, in loosing the bands of wickednes, and letting the oppressed go free, by breaking every heavy yoke. We beseech you take courage in God, for the prosecution of this Noble Designe, you have (by the providence of God,) so happily begun.

And we the Souldiers of this Army, with all other the faithful in this Nation, do acknowledge you to be a lawful and just Court, for these three reasons following.

First, In that you were chosen by the Peoples Representatives.

Secondly, That you stand by vertue of the same Power that *Charles Steward* did stand by, viz. the Sword.

Thirdly, which is beyond all other reasons in the world, The Foundation of Truth and Righteousness; and therefore a just Power.

And we do hereby engage to stand by you, to justify you in all your just Proceedings, in judging and condemning all inhumane Murderers. And we bid defiance to all such Tyrants, who shall refuse to submit to the justnes of your power, which we shall be most ready to defend with our lives and Fortunes.

Delivered to the aforesaid Court,
when they were met in the
painted Chamber, Jan. 22.
M D C X L V I I I.

John Raye, Lieutenant
By William Reynolds.
and
George Jellus.